

47 Four Oaks Road
Bedminster, NJ 07921
July 31, 2009

Mr. Jack O'Brian
Intermountain Regional FOIA Officer
Intermountain Regional Office---NPS
PO Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. O'Brian:

In filing the accompanying **Freedom of Information Act** request, I want you to know that currently I am a seasonal Park Ranger (Interpretation) at Mesa Verde National Park and that I will be working there until this Labor Day. And in the interest of complete fairness and absolute openness, I thought you should have copies of the letters I wrote to Linda Lanier and Tessy Shirakawa in my efforts to get this information without a formal FOIA request and a copy of the one email I received in reply.

Having been an elected and appointed public official in New Jersey for many years, I know the bureaucratic cost of responding to official FOIA requests. Consequently, I tried to get some of this basic financial information about the finances of Mesa Verde National park without a formal FOIA request; and I am sorry I have had to resort finally to a formal, official FOIA request.

The problem is that Larry Wiese, the Superintendent of Mesa Verde National Park, and Bill Nelligan, the Deputy Superintendent, would like to function as if the Freedom of Information act had never been enacted. Worse still no one at the park is allowed to share any information or give out any information about even the most basic and simple questions. For instance, I haven't been able to get any answers about how many official sister park relationships we have, and no one wants to answer any questions about CyArk, or about where Larry Wiese is when he isn't at the park which seems to be most of the time. Essentially there is a veil of secrecy about everything, and an undercurrent of fear and intimidation if anyone asks for information or if anyone divulges virtually anything but the most routine information. Perhaps that is why Diane Cooke suggested I send this directly to you, and not to the FOIA contract person at Mesa Verde National Park.

In essence, the management style and practices of Mesa Verde National Park simply are neither "open nor transparent." And so it is with regret that I have had to resort to filing this FOIA request.

I look forward to hearing from your office, and to receiving some of the information I have requested.

Looking ahead,

Bruce E. Schundler